

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1985

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - LAST LINE PARA 6)

FOR SECRETARY VANCE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, AND
NSC-DR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CH, US

SUBJ: ASSOCIATED PRESS DELEGATION MEETING WITH TENG HSIAO-PING

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS EXECUTIVES DELEGATION MET WITH VICE PREMIER
TENG TSIAO-PING FOR TWO HOURS ON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 6.
THEY PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS OF THEIR MEETING AT USLO
RECEPTION FOR THEM THE SAME EVENING.

2. ACCORDING TO AP PRESIDENT AND DELEGATION LEADER KEITH
FULLER, TENG OPENED SESSION BY ASSERTING THAT US MEDIA WAS
INCORRECT IN CHARACTERIZING CHINESE POSITION ON TAIWAN
DURING VANCE VISIT AS "FLEXIBLE." TENG ADVISED GROUP THAT
CHINESE POSITION HAD NOT ALTERED, REPEATED STANDARD THREE
CONDITIONS FOR NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS, AND SAID THAT
TAIWAN WAS AN INTERNAL CHINESE PROBLEM THAT BROOKS NO OUTSIDE
INTERFERENCE. SO LONG AS THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTERFERE IN
TAIWAN, TENG VOLUNTEERED, CHINA DOES NOT "DISCARD (SIC) A
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT." IN THIS CONTEXT TENG OBSERVED THAT
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THE CHINESE ARE A PATIENT PEOPLE, THAT CHAIRMAN MAO HAD
MADE THIS POINT IN THE PAST TO PRESIDENT NIXON, AND THAT
THE SAME POINT HAD BEEN MADE TO SECRETARY VANCE.

3. REFERRING TO MINUTES OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CHINESE
LEADERS AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD, TENG
TOLD THE AP DELEGATION THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S PROPOSAL

OF A SHIFT OF THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICE FROM PEKING TO
TAIPEI REPRESENTED A "REGRESSION" (SIC) AND A STEP BACKWARD
FROM THE KISSINGER/FORD POSITION.

4. FULLER ASKED ME IF SECRETARY VANCE HAD IN FACT PROPOSED
A SHIFT OF THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICE FROM PEKING TO TAIPEI.
I RESPONDED THAT VANCE HAD NOT. RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT
LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, FULLER ALLOWED THAT HE WAS
BOTHERED BY THE FACT THAT TENG HAD STATED SUCH A PROPOSAL
HAD BEEN MADE WHILE I WAS DENYING IT. I RESPONDED THAT
SECRETARY VANCE HAD BEEN TALKING IN GENERALITIES AND HAD
BEEN EXPLAINING THE DIFFICULTIES THE UNITED STATES WAS
FACING IN RESOLVING THE TAIWAN QUESTION.

5. ASKED BY DELEGATION MEMBER DAVID BRADLEY ABOUT LIKELY
PRC REACTION TO A TAIWAN PLEBISCITE REJECTING REUNIFICATION
WITH THE PRC, TENG REPLIED THAT THE CHINESE "WOULD CROSS THE
STRAITS."

6. TENG INDICATED TO THE GROUP THAT THE JAPANESE FORMULA
IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRC. PRESSED FOR DETAILS, TENG SAID
THAT "CIVIL" (APPARENTLY MEANING NONGOVERNMENTAL) RELATIONS
ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRC. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

7. AP HAS FILED A STORY BASED ON THE INTERVIEW WITH TENG.
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